

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

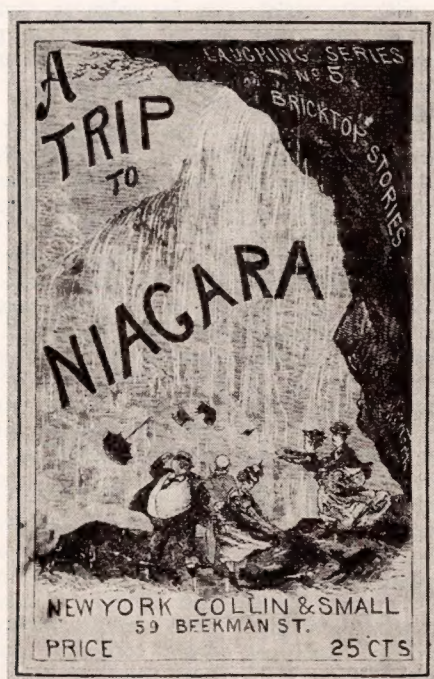
Vol. 40 No. 5

May 15, 1971

Whole No. 464

New York Boys' Library Published by Norman L. Munro

By Rhoda Gay Walgren



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 137

LAUGHING SERIES

Publisher: Collin & Small, 59 Beekman St., New York, N. Y. Issues: 5 (highest number seen advertised). Dates: 1876. Schedule of Issue: Unknown (No. 5 is simply dated 1876). Size: 9½x6½ in. Pages: 64. Price: 25c. Illustrations: Line drawn cover on buff paper. Numerous humorous inside illustrations, many in full page. Contents: Comic stories by Bricktop (George G. Small).

# New York Boys' Library Published by Norman L. Munro

By Rhoda Gay Walgren

## PART II

The New York Boys' Library was first issued ca. September 5, 1877, by Norman L. Munro, and sold for 10c a copy. As it was stated before, his purpose in publishing this library was to keep those serials already completed in the "Boys of New York" and "Our Boys" before the readers. There were also two other types of material which he included in the library. These were novels by famous authors and serials from journals other than his own.

Few problems arise with the serials that Munro took from his own story papers. They appear scattered throughout the one hundred and thirty-eight numbers and are easily recognized by the famous pen names used: Peter Pad, Tom Teaser, Police Captain Howard, and Commodore Ah-Look. George G. Small, who worked for Munro at the time as editor of the "Boys of New York," wrote the early stories in the Tommy Bounce series. However, it is not always easy to identify who wrote under what pen name since these were usually owned by the publisher and he assigned people on his staff to write stories using these names.

Many of the early numbers were famous novels written by equally famous authors. Thomas Hughes, Captain Marryatt, Jonathan Swift, Daniel Defoe and others are only a few. Most of their books were verified in either the Library of Congress Catalogs or the British Museum Catalogue. But there were some which could not be verified, for example, William Harrison Ainsworth's *DICK TURPIN*, Syl-

vanus Cobb, Jr.'s, *SMUGGLER OF ST. MALO*, the books by J. H. Ingraham and others. There are two theories which could explain this. First, they could all be title changes that have not yet been uncovered and unfortunately will have to remain so in this paper due to the unavailability of the materials necessary for this type of research. Secondly Munro could have illegally used famous authors names with works by authors of lesser quality in order to "sell" the books. It would be hard to prove or disprove either theory without compiling a detailed bibliography of each author's works.

The third type of material included was taken from other journals, often from England. Several stories by J. J. G. Bradley are thought to have first been published by the Hogarth House Co. in England, but there is no proof and the dates are unknown. Then there are the famous Jack Harkaway and Dick Lightheart stories written by Bracebridge Hemming and published by Edwin Brett in his "Boys of England" and the "Young Men of Great Britain." These were taken either with or without permission of Brett by Leslie in America who reprinted them in his "Boys' and Girls' Weekly" and the "Boys of America."<sup>31</sup> The success of the stories in America was probably the reason that prompted Leslie to induce Hemming to come to America and write exclusively for him.<sup>32</sup> Munro no doubt took the stories he published from Brett in England because when Leslie published Hemming's first Am-

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Published monthly at 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Edited by Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass. 02720. Second class postage paid at Lawrence, Kansas. Assistant Editor, Ralph F. Cummings, 161 Pleasant St., South Grafton, Mass. 01560. Subscription: \$3.00 per year. Ad Rates—9c per word, \$1.50 per column inch; \$3.25 per quarter page, \$4.50 per half page and \$7.50 per page. Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.

erican story Munro did not. However, in a back page advertisement for 1874, Brett states that he:

wishes particularly to call the attention of his readers to the "Jack Harkaway in America," and the continuation of the original Harkaway, as being now produced by Mr. Brett in the "Boys of England," under the title of "Jack Harkaway and his Son's Adventures round the World." The reader will at once notice that the old style and interest are maintained in the latter.<sup>33</sup>

**JACK HARKAWAY AND HIS SON'S ADVENTURES ROUND THE WORLD** is the title that Munro did publish, but it is hard to tell if it is the same as Leslie's without a text comparison (materials unavailable). Apparently the relationship between Brett and Leslie was a little strained at this time.

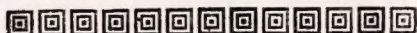
**CLAUDE DUVAL** and the other titles in this group present a more complex problem. There has been so much written about this famous character in history it is hard to ascribe these stories to any one author. They probably came originally from one or two serials published by Lloyd in England sometime in the 1850's: **GENTLEMAN JACK; OR, LIFE ON THE ROAD**, 205 numbers, and **CLAUDE DUVAL, THE DASHING HIGHWAYMAN**, 202 numbers. R. M. DeWitt published two series about Claude Duval. The first, the Claude Duval Series, has been confirmed through a comparison of first lines as being the same stories as those in the New York Boys' Library. However, the Nightshade Series appears to be from another serial since a comparison of number 4, "Hounsloow Jack; or, Duval and the Dark Lantern," the only one in the Hess collection, with the almost complete Claude Duval Series, also in the Hess collection, brought to light no links connecting the stories. It is thought that:

Nightshade, or Claude Duval, the Dashing Highwayman, was written by Malcolm J. Errym, and was published by John Dicks in 1863, and ran to 60 weekly numbers, of eight pages each. It is the same story as

that published by DeWitt. But I do not think it is identical with that published by Lloyd, as Lloyds ran to 202 nos., 1616 pages. If they be the same story, Dick's would be a greatly abridged version. . . . The name EHHYM is an anagram on the sur-names "Merry and Rymer," but it is still a debated question which of the two latter was the author's real name.<sup>34</sup>

Charlton Lea and Stephen Agnew, writing for the Aldine Press, have also been credited with the authorship of the Claude Duval stories, but they wrote their's about 1900, so that eliminates them.

While searching for information about the New York Boys' Library it was necessary to check advertisements in newspapers, bibliographies and the broken collection of issues of the "Boys of New York" in the Hess collection. These yielded not only information about the books in the library, but also informaion about the type of advertising Munro used to publicize this library. The following is a compilation of when and where the advertisements and official listings were



## AT YOUR SERVICE!

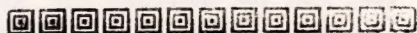
**D - J Books**

Box 3352

San Bernardino, Calif. 92404

**YOUR WANTS LIST IS  
INVITED.**

(We buy too!)



found:

## 1877-1878

New York Sun	September 5, 1877	#1-6
New York Sun	September 6, 1877	#1-6
New York Sun	September 7, 1877	#1-6
New York Sun	September 8, 1877	#1-6
New York Sun	September 9, 1877	#1-6
New York Sun	September 10, 1877	#1-6
New York Sun	September 19, 1877	#1-12
New York Sun	September 22, 1877	#1-12
Boys of New York	September 24, 1877	#1-3
New York Sun	September 25, 1877	#1-12
Publisher's Weekly	September 29, 1877	#1-12 (listed)
New York Sun	October 5, 1877	#1-20
Boys of New York	October 8, 1877	#1-10
Sun. Baltimore	October 8, 1877	#1-20
Sun. Baltimore	October 10, 1877	#1-20
Boys of New York	October 22, 1877	#1-13
American Bookseller	ca. Nov. 15, 1877	#1-50 (Christmas is.)
American Bookseller	February 1, 1878	#1-90
American Bookseller	March 1, 1878	#1-20
American Bookseller	April 1, 1878	#1-126
American Bookseller	May 1, 1878	#1-132
American Bookseller	May 15, 1878	#133-137 (listed)
American Bookseller	June 1, 1878	#1-132
American Bookseller	July 1, 1878	#1-138

Up to October 22, 1877, Munro concentrated his advertisements toward the public to let them know the newest titles he had for sale. However, he later must have relied on the news company distributors to sell his New York Boys' Library because from November 15th on, his advertising was directed towards the book trade dealers as shown by the fact that advertisements only appeared in the American Bookseller. The news dealers would see the ads, order the books from Munro and then they would sell them. From the above list it is hard to tell how the titles were issued, two, three, four or more in a given period, but it does seem they were issued in spurts from September to the next July.

The format of each individual issue was almost the same. Paging ran about 32 pages on the average, but varied from 24 to 96 pages. Often in the shorter issues, Munro filled in the last pages with short stories or incidences of a few paragraphs to several columns or more in length. End pages were used for advertising the New York Boys' Library and the Riverside

Library. They were usually printed in three columns with illustrations on the front page (see appendix for xerox copies of the first pages of the eight titles in the Hess collection). Some of the editions of the Wide Awake Library were printed in two columns but since there were none in the New York Boys' Library at the University of Minnesota it is hard to tell if any were ever printed in two columns. The banner across the top of the front page reads: The Best Boys' Stories by the Greatest Authors. 75 cent Book for 10 cents.

## Notes

31—"Notice to Our American Readers," Dime Novel Round-up, November, 1938, p. 1-2.

32—"Frank Leslie to the Boys and Girls of America," Dime Novel Round-up, September, 1938, p. 1.

33—"A Back Page Advertisement for Year of 1874," Dime Novel Round-up, July, 1938, p. 2.

34—Patrick Mulhall, "DeWitt Information," Dime Novel Round-up, October, 1934, p. 2.

## A FEW OF THE LESS KNOWN SERIES

By Jack Schorr

In juvenile literature, in the hard-back classification are some of the less known series books for boys which are not frequently found and are interesting to collect.

Little Brown and Company is one of the publishers who published several of these series. One of them is the Young Captain of Industry Series by Hollis Godfrey. They were "For the Horton Name," "Jack Collerton's Engine," and "Dave Morrells Battery." These sold for \$1.25 each, published about 1912 with six illustrations.

I have the last one, an attractive book, buff binding with blue and black illustrated cover, excellently illustrated by Franklin T. Wood. A story of a boy's efforts and achievement to improve the storage battery.

Another one you seldom see is "The Staten Island Giants Series." The one I have is "The Captain of the S.I.G.S." by Etta Anthony Baker. What attracted me to this book was the cover. Excellently illustrated with a boy in baseball uniform in white and blue with S.I.G. across the chest, jumping up reaching for an outfield hit. Little Brown and Co. didn't designate the other books in the series, if there ever were any more. It was published in 1911.

Another interesting looking series is the Donald Kirk Series, covering the experiences of a boy in the newspaper field. There were two of these that Little Brown put out: "Donald Kirk, The Morning Record Copy Boy" and "Donald Kirk, the Morning Record Correspondent."

These were written by Edward Mott Wooley and illustrated by George Varian.

Little Brown also put out the better known Wellworth College series by Leslie Quirk, "The Fourth Down," "The Freshman Eight," "The Third Strike," to mention a few. You don't see these every day of the week, either.

E. P. Dutton, who published the adventure books by Everett McNeil,

came out around 1910 with a colorful series called Captain Pete by James Cooper Wheeler. There were "Captain Pete of Puget Sound," "Captain Pete of Cortesana," "Captain Pete of Alaska." These were superbly bound, large books with bright colors, gold lettering. These were well written adventure stories among the Bays and Islands of Puget Sound and Northwest Country.

I don't think there are many to equal E. P. Dutton's Indian Series by Colonel H. R. Gordon, "Logan, the Mingo," "Red Jacket, Last of the Senecas," "Pontiac, Chief of the Ottowas," "Osceola, Chief of the Seminoles," "Tecumseh, Chief of the Shawanoes." These were put up in ribbed blue or grey binding, illustrated cover, depicting a scene from each story, gold lettering on the first editions, with gilt top on each. If you like an Indian story with good research for background, then you will like Colonel H. R. Gordon's.

I was lucky. I knew of these for a long time and found about five in one store, very reasonable too, in very good condition.

A series that I have seldom seen on the West Coast is the Lansing Series, by Hawley Williams, published by D. Appleton and Company, the Champion publisher of sport stories for boys. There were seven in this series, as far as I know: "Johnson of Lansing," "Batter Up," "Quarterback Reckless," "Five Yards To Go," "The Winning Hit," "Fair Play," "Straight Ahead."

As you know, Hawley Williams was William Heyliger who wrote the companion, St. Mary's series and others. I have yet to find one out west. I profess to be no authority of the scarcity of the above, I only draw on my own experience, when I say that I get around more than the average, and I don't run across them here, nor do my fellow collectors in the area, which leads me to believe that most of the above of these series are not found frequently. This is what makes these series fun to collect. It's a thrill to find one.

## SHORT STORY

April 2, 1971

MERRIWELL TO BROADWAY, a short item in "Backstage" announcing a musical production about Frank Merriwell to open at the Longacre Theatre, New York on April 20. (Item sent in by Ralph Gardner.)

April 14, 1971

Cartoon announcing "Frank Merriwell—or Honor Challenged" a musical set in 1897 and dealing with some of the early exploits of the Burt L. Standish pulp hero, opens Saturday with Larry Ellis as Frank. (Paper unknown; sent in by Jack Herman.)

April 16, 1971

Letter received from Charles Brag-in. "If you haven't heard it elsewhere, here's news. A new musical on Broadway, Frank Merriwell's Honor. Now practically all shows on Broadway, musical, drama or movies are not only full of nudity, but hard core pornography. How in the world can they have a Frank Merriwell with sex? Frankly, with or without sex and nudity, I don't think Frank will last long on Broadway. It was the usual custom, maybe it is now, that if a play lasted a month or two on Broadway, the movie people bought it for the movies. So if Frank can last long enough, we may see him featured in the movies.

April 26, 1971

A review of the play by Clive Barnes in the New York Times gives the play a real panning. "The music and lyrics by Skip Redwine and Larry Frank are distinctively undistinguished. The performances suffer from everything else. The scenery by Tom John is unimaginative and tasteless—it is difficult to see how much less of a period might have been evoked. It is all too forgettable for description." A note at the end of the review states in italics. "The show closed after its single performance. (Clipping of review sent in by Ralph Gardner.)

And your editor had planned to see the play during the summer!!!

List for stamped envelope of old time paperbacks, nostalgic photoplay-illustrated books. Private collection.

Gurman

23498 Parklawn  
Oak Park, Mich. 48237

## WANTED

Merriwell Series Nos. 1 65 76 81  
82 94 101 102 108 110 114 115 133  
137 152 198

Jimmie Dale and The Missing Hour,  
by Frank Packard.

James F. Stroecker

6304 Oakland Ave.

St. Louis, Mo. 63139

## FOR SALE

Liberty and Punch Magazine  
for sale cheap.

Eli A. Messier

Box 1122, Woonsocket, R. I. 02895

## OLD PULP MAGAZINES WANTED

Such as Doc Savage, Shadow, Spider, Unknown, Phantom, Western Story, Wild West, G-8, Wings, "spicy" mags and many others in the all-fiction field. Must be in excellent condition. What have you? Send list and price wanted. No comics or books.

Back Numbers

Box 214, Little Rock, Ark. 72203

Back numbers, Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup Nos. 1 to 237 inclusive. A number of reprints in the lower numbers (can't be helped). Also two indexes, novel catalogue, birthday number and the one number published of Pioneer and Scouts of the Old West. Single issues, 10c each.

All for \$24.00. Can you beat it.

Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass

## FOR SALE

Merriwell stories in Tip Top Weekly. Early and late numbers. Send want list; too many to catalog. Good condition and reasonable prices. Also, in clothbound first and later editions, stories by Sir Rider Haggard.

GUINON

Box 214, Little Rock, Ark. 72203

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

249. Alton R. Cogert, c/o D. A. Beam, 828 Marion St., Springfield, Mo. 68502  
(New address)
47. Ross R. DeVean, 130 S. Willaman Dr., Beverly Hills, Calif. 90211 (New address)
281. John Riley, 20 Dupont St., Plainview, N. Y. 11803 (New address)

## FOR SALE

- McALLISTER, HUGH  
The Flight of the Silver Ship. Excellent. Saalfeld. Orange covers ---- 1.50
- McINTYRE, JOHN T.  
The Young Continentals at Lexington. Penn. Covers loose ----- 2.50
- MOFFAT, WILLIAM D.  
The Crimson Banner. Saalfeld. Fair cond. Slightly warped ----- 1.00
- MORRISON, HARRY STEELE  
The Adventures of a Boy Reporter. World. Good, slightly warped -- 1.00
- MORSE, GEORGE  
The Vanishing Liner. Goldsmith. Good, binding loose ----- 1.00
- ORTON, GEORGE W.  
Bob Hunt in Canada. Whitman. Good ----- 1.00  
Bob Hunt, Senior Camper. Whitman. Good ----- 1.00
- OTIS, JAMES  
Mrs. Stubb's Brother. Harper. Very good ----- 3.00  
Toby Tyler. G&D. Excellent ----- 1.00
- PACKARD, FRANK L.  
Jimmie Dale and the Phantom Clue. Burt. Good ----- 2.00
- PATCHIN, FRANK GEE  
The Pony Rider Boys with the Texas Rangers. Altemus. Good ----- 2.00
- PAYSON, HOWARD, LIEUT.  
The Boy Scouts for Uncle Sam. Hurst. Fair ----- 2.00
- PENDEXTER, HUGH  
The Young Trappers. Small, Maynard & Co. (Camp and Trail Series)  
Fair cond. Illustrations loose ----- 1.50
- STEPHENS, C. A.  
Left on Labrador. Hurst. Loose binding. Faded covers and spine ---- 1.00
- CARTER, HERBERT  
The Boy Scouts' First Camp Fire. Burt. Title page missing, water stain 1.00  
The Boy Scouts on War Trails in Belgium. Burt. Warped. Water stain 1.00
- CHADWICK, LESTER  
Baseball Joe, Club Owner. Cupples & Leon. Warped, water stains-- 1.00
- CHAPMAN, ALLEN  
The Darewell Chums in the Woods. C&L. Slightly warped, slight water stains ----- 1.50  
Fenn Masterson's Discoverer; or, The Darewell Chums on a Cruise. Goldsmith. Loose binding ----- 1.00  
Frank Roscoe's Secret; or, The Darewell Chums in the Woods. Goldsmith. Loose binding ----- 1.00  
The Radio Boys at Ocean Point. G&D. Excellent cond. ----- 2.00  
The Radio Boys' First Wireless. G&D. VG ----- 1.50

Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass. 02720

## ATTENTION OLD TIMERS

Advanced collector of boy's old juveniles needs following hardbacks to complete his library. When quoting, supply publisher, (date if given), condition and price. Many of these I already have, but I am endeavoring to better edition or condition or both.

### HARRY CASTLEMON

A Sailor in Spite of Himself  
A Rebellion in Dixie  
A Ten Ton Cutter  
The Pony Express Rider  
Carl the Trailer  
A Struggle for a Fortune  
Guy Harris, the Runaway  
Floating Treasure  
The Haunted Mine  
Luke Bennett's Hide Out

### FRANK E. CHANNON

An American Boy at Henley (Little Brown)  
Jackson and His Henley Friends (Little Brown)  
Henley's American Captain (Little Brown)  
Henley on the Battle Line (Little Brown)

### ERNEST SETON-THOMPSON

The Trail of the Sandhill Stag  
Art Anatomy of Animals  
Mammals of Manitoba  
Birds of Manitoba  
Life History of Northern Animals  
The Book of Woodcraft and Indian Lore  
Two Little Savages  
Rolf in the Woods  
The Foresters Manual  
Head Chief of the Woodcraft Indians

### EVERETT L. TOMLINSON

The Boys of Old Monmouth (A. J. Rowland)  
Boys of the Frontier (W. A. Wilde)  
Stories of the American Revolution—1st series (LL&S)  
Stories of the American Revolution—2nd series (LL&S)  
Young People's History of the Amer. Revolution (Appleton)  
Fighters Young Americans Want to Know (Appleton)  
The Story of General Pershing (Appleton)  
The Rider of the Black Horse (Houghton Mifflin)  
The Red Chief (Houghton Mifflin)  
The Blue and Buff series  
In Days of Peril (Burt)  
The Boys of the Mohawk (Burt)  
Lighthorse Harry's Legion (Doubleday)

### EDWARD MOTT WOOLEY

Donald Kirk, The Morning Record Copy-Boy (Little Brown)  
Donald Kirk, The Morning Record Correspondent (Little Br.)

(See previous Roundup issues for other titles wanted)